Vol. IV. Numb. 24.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the Resolutions of the Parliament of Ireland. *Remarks on those Resolutions. The History of* Disunion. *The fatal Consequences thereof. The Church of* England *in no Danger from the* Dissenters.

From Wednesday June the 20th, to Saturday June the 23d, 1705.

Country-m. MAster *Observator*, I find all the People in Her Majesties Dominions are not so much out of Temper, as is the *Tacking Party* in *England*. We call the *Irish Fools* and *Knaves*, and put 100 Ridiculous Stories upon 'em, but in good Truth, Master, here's such an Honest Story upon the *Post-Man*, concerning the *Irish Parliament*, that the like we could not find from the *English Parliament* in three Years time.

Obs. Prithee let me hear it?

Country-m. It has been Resolved, *Nemine Contradicente, That endeavouring to Create or Promote Misunderstandings betwixt the* Protestants *of this Kingdom, tends to the Advantage of the* Papists, *and Weakening the* Protestant *Interest, is Seditious, and of Dangerous Consequence to Her Majesties Government, and the Succession in the* Protestant Line, *as by Law Established.*

That by Writing or Dispersing Pamphlets, or otherwise to Insinuate Danger to the Establish'd Church from the Succession as by Law Establish'd, tends to promote Popery *and the Interest of the Pretended Prince of* Wales.

That it is the Indispensable Duty of all Magistrates in this Kingdom, to put the Laws strictly in Execution against all Persons that shall be Guilty of such Pernicious Practices.

Now, Master, shall we call the People of *Ireland Fools*, when they know how to chuse for themselves a better Parliament than the *Wise* People of *England* did about three Years ago? And have they not quite different Notions of the *Protestant Interest*, and the Danger of the *Papists*, when they Vote it *Seditious* to create a Misunderstanding betwixt *Protestants*, and our Parliament Voted your Paper *Seditious*, because you said the *Papists* and the *Tackers* joyn'd in Methods to *Disunite* the *Protestants*?

Obs. Honest *Country-man*, Reasons of Policy may oblige me not to give you an Account of the Methods taken to create a Misunderstanding betwixt the *Protestants* of *Ireland*, and who were the chief Instruments therein; but I hope 'tis no *Crime* nor *Ill Manners* to say, that these Resolves of the *Irish* Parliament are *Brave* and *Generous*, consistent with the Duty they owe to the Queen that Governs, to the People they Represent, and to the Country of which they are Natives; as also they are a just Resentment of the Evil Practices of some Men who endeavoured to create a Misunderstanding betwixt the *Protestants* of that Kingdom.

God forbid that ever the People of *England* should be brought to the Knowledge of *Popish Discipline* by such dismal Instances of *Cruelty*, with which the poor *Protestants* of *Ireland* have been too often acquainted; one would think that the Barbarous Scences of *Massacres*, *Murders*, *Rapine* and *Cruelty* committed in a Neighbour Nation, by those *Inhumane Sacrilegious Free-booters* of *Rome*, should put the People of *England* upon their Guard, and oblige 'em not to indulge themselves in such a fatal Security, as if nothing could awaken them, but the *Knife* at the *Throat*, the *Sword* or *Pistol* at the *Breast*, the *Halter* about the *Neck*, and the *Rack* and *Gibbet* before their *Eyes*.

I could here enter into a large and profitable Discourse, and show that since the *Reformation*, the *Disunion* and *Difference* of *Protestants* among themselves, has given the *Papists* the greatest Advantages over us, and herein we need not rummage the Musty Rolls of *Antiquity*, our own Memories, and the Transactions of the present Age, can produce Pregnant Instances.

Let us take an Impartial View of the *Massacre* in *Ireland*, by Abstracting the *Bigottry* of Parties from the Accounts, and a Disinterested Person must conclude, That the *Disunion* of *Protestants* did Arm the *Papists* to the Effusion of such a Channel of Blood, that even over-flow'd the Banks of *Popish Cruelty* it self, and has left such Stains in History, that Age nor Time will never wash out. If I look back into the Unfortunate Scenes of the short term of my own Life, I can, from my own fatal Experience, prove this to be Matter of Fact.

One would have thought that after a Cruel and Barbarous War in our own Country, fomented by the Influence of *Papists* on both sides, when a long time we had been cutting one anothers *Throats*, to the Ruin of the *Royal Family* as well as the *Common-Wealth*, I say, after the *Papists* had so long laugh'd at our *Folly* and *Impiety* in a *Civil War*, that upon the *Restauration* we should have found out Methods for *Peace* and *Union*, was no more than what might have been Rationally expected.

The *Restauration* was near a Kin to a Miracle; for as nothing but a *Divine Power* could compose a *Regular World* out of *Disagreeing* and *Jarring Elements*, so nothing but the same Power could compose the *Unharmonious* and *Opposite Minds* of Men, Animated with the greatest *Envy* and *Malice*, to such a *Steddy* and *Firm Resolution* of *Peace*, by bringing Home the Remains of the *Royal Family* to the Possession of the *Throne*.

What could *Europe* expect from such a *Revolution* as the *Restauration*, but that Men with *Wounds* even Green upon 'em, and yet feeling the Blows of an *Unnatural War*, should fix the Helm of *Government* on such sure Hinges of *Peace* and *Union*, that no Erruption for the future might be fear'd, but that we should for ever afterwards have Sailed in a *Silent* and *Peaceful Channel*.

But no sooner was the King settled on the *Throne* but the Minds of Men became unsettled; the *Black Vulcans* of *Rome* began to exercise their Bellows

Fellows in blowing up the Fire of *Contention*. *Religion* ſtill was the the *Pretence*, what ever was the moving Cauſe. The Church was reſtored with the Crown, but the *Sacheverels* of the Altar would admit of no terms of *Peace*, no *Conceſſions*, no Door to be opened for their Brethren to enter into Church. So that many Hundreds, if not Thouſands of the then *Beneſiſt Clergy* were forc'd to reſign, and thinking it their Duty to Preach the Goſpel, they gathered ſeparate Congregations.

The Effect hereof was the draining the Church of *Votaries*, which ſo incens'd the *Beneſiſt Clergy* againſt the *Diſſenting Preachers*, that all ways were contriv'd to Silence them. The old Laws were put in Execution, and new Laws were made; The *Diſſenters* in moſt places were harras'd in Courts, ſome were Impriſon'd, others had their Goods ſeiz'd and ſold at leſs than a Fourth part value, and *Confuſion*, under the Name of *Religion*, poſſeſs'd the whole Land.

This Difference and Contention among *Proteſtants* encouraged the *Papiſts* to enter into a Plot to Murder the King, and that failing, they were encouraged upon King *James*'s coming to the Crown, to appear bear-fac'd, and to ſet up *Maſs-Houſes* in Oppoſition to the *Churches*.

See here the fatal Effect of *Diſunion*! The *Papiſts*, as they had ſtir'd up the Perſecution of *Proteſtant Diſſenters*, ſo now they reſolv'd to make further earnings of thoſe unhappy People. 'Tis Natural for a Man to hate one that endeavours his Ruin: The *Church* had a long time Trampl'd on the *Diſſenters*, and what now could the *Papiſts* expect but that the *Diſſenters* would Trample on the *Church* if they were aſſiſted with Power.

Hereupon they had Liberty of Conſcience given them, which ſo prevail'd upon ſome of them, that they run as Mad now as the *Church* had done in the former Reign. A few, and thoſe too many, fell in, point Blank, with the Court in their Deſigns againſt the *Church*, and the Liberties of *England*, to deſtroy which nothing could be more Effectual than the Project of Regulating Corporations at that time.

However the better ſort of *Churchmen* and *Diſſenters* kept True, and firmly United againſt *Popery*. Mark here the Bleſſed Effect of *Union*! Had they not then United as Brethren, we ſhould never have agreed upon a Revolution, the Effect of which was a Happy and Juſt Settlement of the Crown, a Bleſſing yet lengthn'd out to us under the Government of the *Serene* and *Pious* Queen *Anne*.

Thus have I given you a ſhort Hiſtory of *Diſunion*, which may be a Reaſon for taking a View of our preſent Contentions, and of what diſmal Effects it may have, not only on this, but on future Ages.

The *Iriſh Parliament* has very well Voted it *Sedition* to *Create Jealouſies that the* Church *is in danger from any ſort of* Proteſtants. Let us bring the Queſtion Home to *England*, and ſee whether the *Church* here is in Danger from the *Diſſenters*.

The Queen, the Head of the *Church* is in no Danger from them, and ſurely the Head being, as it were, the Conſtituent Member and out of Danger, the other parts of the Body may be thought to be ſafe. The Queen, as Head of the *Spiritual* and *Civil Power*, is *Totum in toto*, *& totum in qualibet parte*. If we ſee a good Complection in the Face, the Eyes brisk and not Jaundic'd, the Countenance of a ſweet and Natural Air, we may from thence conclude a due Temperament of Body and State of Wealth.

We can ſee nothing in the Countenance of Her Majeſties Government but an Air of *Pleaſantneſs*; we can find nothing Chagrin in Her *Declarations* to Her People, or Her *Speeches* to Her Parliament; we have no *Jealouſies* or *Fears* from any ſort of *Diſſenters* told us from the Throne; Her Majeſty ſits there, not Crowned with *Thiſtles*, and with a Motto *Nemo me impune laceſſit*; But Crown'd with Wreaths of *Peaceful Palms*, with this Motto, of *Semper Eadem*; *always the ſame Peaceful Temper and Diſpoſition of Mind*.

Now, ſince no *Hurricans* and *Tempeſts* invade the Throne, but *Serene* and *Gentle Breezes* cool the Royal Manſion, in Gods Name, from whence proceeds this *Noiſe* and *Thunder*, theſe *Tempeſtuous* and *Roaring Winds* amongſt Her People? What would theſe Sons of *Boreus*, theſe *Tacking Leviathans* have? Would they diſturb the Throne, the People, the whole Realm? Muſt we ſuffer our *Peace* to be *Invaded*, our *Quiet* Diſturb'd, and the *Felicity* of our Country Embarras'd by ſo inconſiderable a Number of *Bouteſue's*, whom our Forefathers would have Contemn'd, and whom our Children would Curſe, ſhould their Deſigns take Place?

And, pray, Gentlemen, when has the Church been in Danger ſince Her Majeſties Happy Acceſſion to the Throne? What need of an *Occaſional Conformity-Bill* to keep *Diſſenters* from *Offices*, when not one *Diſſenter* has, or can be prefer'd to an *Office*? If they are minded to ſtrengthen the Mounds of the *Church*, let it be done out of the ſame Materials of which it is built. If it be a true *Church* it is built on the chief *Corner-Stone*; if it be a true *Church*, it is the *Church of Chriſt*, and then it is a *Church of Peace*, of *Love*, of *Union* and *Moderation*; and ſuch as is the *Church*, ſuch are the *Members*.

What ſort of *Church* then is the *Tacking Church*? What are the *Clergy*? And what the *Members* of that *Church* we have ſufficiently diſcover'd in the late *Elections*; inſomuch that every *Good Chriſtian* in *England* may heartily Pray *From ſuch a Church, ſuch a Clergy*, and *ſuch a People*, *Good Lord deliver our Native Country*!

Country m. Maſter, that's a Particular for the County of *Suffolk*.

Obſ. Well, Honeſt *Country-man*, I'll hold you no longer. But ſince the True *Church* of *England* is in no danger from the *Diſſenters*, this Noiſe of the *Tantivy-Clergy* can mean nothing leſs than *Perſecution*, that the *Governments Good Friends* being weakened, ſomething may be brought to paſs, that an *Ordinary Capacity* may gueſs at. ——— Come, here's the *Queen*, *Peace*, *Union* and *Moderation* in one Bumper, and ſo to Bed.

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